

WORST FAMINE IN HISTORY

Is Staring Russia in the Face

ACCORDING TO REPORTS

Of the Agents of the Department of Agriculture—Wheat Crop Is a Hundred Million Bushels Short.

Washington, Dec. 19.—According to reports from agents of the Department of Agriculture, Russia is facing the worst famine of its history. The wheat crop is a hundred million bushels short and the rice crop is alarmingly small.

FAMINE GROWING WORSE.

500,000 Destitute Chinamen Encamped in One Town.

Shanghai, Dec. 19.—The famine in Kiangsu is growing worse. According to reliable reports received here 500,000 destitute persons are encamped at Tsinkian, and many have arrived at Nanking.

The rebellion in Kiangsu has been crushed.

DIED WITH HER DOLL.

Little Girl Played With Matches While Mother Was Away.

New York, Dec. 19.—Clasping her Christmas doll in her tightly furled arms, little five-year-old Florence Obit died at the Bellevue hospital last night. The child, a daughter of a cab driver, had been promised a doll in her Christmas stocking and yesterday her mother went out to make the purchase. During the latter's absence, Florence played with matches and set the house afire. Her mother found her fatally burned at the hospital, where in her single moment of consciousness she asked: "Did Santa bring my doll?"

WILD CAT KILLS BUCK.

Bloody Fight in Field at Westminster Attracts Men.

Brattleboro, Dec. 19.—Cries of alarm from a field in Westminster West attracted the attention of several residents of that town Monday afternoon, and an investigation showed that a young buck had become the prey of a large wildcat.

"LIKE A WALL ST. CIRCULAR."

Poultney Bigelow Says of President's Panama Message.

New York, Dec. 19.—Poultney Bigelow today said in regard to the President's Panama message: "When the President can find a single resident of the canal zone who does not smile at his report, then it will be time enough for me to answer his misleading statements, which read like the circular of a Wall street speculator, rather than the language of an American statesman."

BONI MUST PAY.

His Former Wife, Anna Gould, Freed from All Responsibility.

Paris, Dec. 19.—By a decision today in the suit of the creditors against Count Boni de Castellane and his former wife, Anna Gould, the latter is freed from all responsibility for the debts contracted by her husband, except in a few minor instances. The court says that Boni, having enjoyed practically the entire income of the couple, should pay the bills.

NO WORK NO PAY.

Bill Introduced by Gaines Regarding Pay of Members of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Representative Gaines of Tennessee introduced a bill today providing that senators and representatives shall have such \$13.75 a day's pay, deducted from their salaries for each day they shall fail to attend sessions. The salaries of members or illness in their families are to be only valid excuses.

RANDOLPH.

Walter Baker, formerly of Randolph, is making a short visit with friends here returning to his home in Boston, where he has charge of a department in the office of the Fitchburg branch of the Boston & Maine railway.

Fred Hayward left yesterday for Tunbridge, where he will spend a few days with his brother, Dr. H. H. Hayward.

B. R. Demeritt of Waterbury arrived yesterday to attend to some work at the Demeritt & Palmer cork canning factory.

There was a small stock shipment from this station Monday. The prices paid were: For hogs, 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 cents, and for calves, 4 to 6 cents per pound.

SOME IMPROVEMENT.

But There Is Still Chance for More in Movement of Cars.

It seems in addition to getting a number of freight cars into Barre last Sunday, the Central Vermont management succeeded in moving a number of cars which had been loaded for shipment for some time and also in setting on sidings cars of stock from the hill, some of which had been awaiting the shifter since Nov. 30. After all the extra work done Sunday there were on Monday morning 51 cars fully or partially loaded with stock, on the tracks between the No. Barre Granite Co.'s and the Central depot, awaiting movement to other sidings.

Sunday's work has shown what can be done with something to do with and it seems as if another or better locomotive for shifting here would help matters greatly.

The new line in use looks so badly that on a day like this it freezes to the tracks if it stops moving—why not take up a subscription and have a patch or two put on the old junk heap.

RUTLAND ROAD ATTACHED.

In Suit for Damages Because of Vergees Wreck.

Rutland, Dec. 19.—A writ of attachment was filed here today as the result of four separate suits brought against the Rutland railroad by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lattrell of Bristol for passenger injured in the Vergees wreck. The claim is \$3,000. The damage in each is on the ground of negligence. The suits are returnable in Addison county court.

BISHOP McCABE DEAD.

End Came This Morning at New York Hospital.

New York, Dec. 19.—Bishop Charles C. McCabe of the Methodist church died at 5:20 this morning at the New York hospital where he was taken last week, when he was stricken with apoplexy.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

A fine line of holiday goods can be found this season at all the stores. Van McAllister is in Northfield assisting his brother-in-law to get out lumber and wood.

Mr. Hatch, salesman for the Tuttle company, was in town yesterday on business with the merchants here. A special Rebekah meeting will be held this evening and all members are requested to be present, as there is a degree work.

Don't forget the Olde Folkes concert, Thursday evening, Dec. 20th, at town hall. A list of ye times and ye singers, with a true and faithful chronicle of ye events which will come to pass at ye great concert:

Ye First Half.
Ye Riggs Chorus
Song Daify Dean
Druffila Parmelia Reed
Four-part Time, Old Oaken Bucket
Colonial Male Quartette
Quaker Duet
Zechariah Lynde and
Rachel Millica Gauthier
Recitation Old Folks Christmas
George Washington Jeffords
Italia Donizetti
King of Ye Caravals Deshayes
Claudia, Clarice, Corilla and
Penelope Nixon
Burlesque Teachers' Examination
Residence of Deacon Tucker
Procession of Antiques Around the Hall
Ye Second Half.
Gloria From Mozart's 12th mass
All Ye Singers
Recitation The Tale of Old Time Hospitality
Stark, ye Elder
Song Larchard Watch
Jedediah Stillmuth, Wilbur and
Azzariah Kinnis Lynds
Ye Ancient Time Exhortation
Twelve of Ye Men and Women Singers
The Family Row Comic Quartette
Penelope Nixon, Martha Washington
Jeffords, Elkanah Ezekiel Thurber
and Gideon Horridiah Jeffords
Wordie Song and Chorus
Cousin Jedediah, Jedediah Stillmuth, Wilbur and Ye Men and Women Singers
Ye Very Ancient Time Aud Lang Synne
Ye Riggs Chorus

WASHINGTON.

Mrs. Winslow Flint is quite low and her condition is reported as very hopeful.

Ray Moody has closed his labors for Mr. Slocom, and yesterday left for Manchester, N. H.

Harold Bigelow is sick with pneumonia, as is also Marjorie, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Thompson.

Mrs. Ann Lougee fell down stairs on Monday, dislocating her shoulder and the collar bone. Dr. Hutchinson was called and made the woman as comfortable as could be expected.

Jonsson Orr, an aged and respected citizen living in the southeast corner of the town, passed away Saturday and the funeral services were held at his late residence Monday afternoon. The interment was at Corinth. He is survived by a wife, one son and one daughter.

TALK OF THE TOWN.

H. E. Palmer of Burlington was in town on business today.

Angelo Scamporrini left this noon on a business trip to Boston.

A. G. Osmond of Randolph was in the city on business yesterday.

H. A. Southworth of Post Mills was in town on business yesterday.

Among arrivals at the City hotel today are E. H. Gossen, Franklin, Pa.; B. C. Bruce, Gedington, Neb.; J. N. Hittner, New York; E. M. Nichols, Lynn, Mass.; and H. W. Varnum, Jeffersonville.

Cards have been received in Barre announcing the marriage of Jacob B. Taylor and Mary A. Hayward on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at South Boylston, Mass. Mr. Taylor is a brother of Mrs. George Bassett of this city.

LEFT WITH THE GOVERNOR

House Recedes From Position on Special Session

A TAXATION COMMISSION

To Be Appointed by Gov. Proctor to Examine into Whole Matter of Taxation and Make Report—Adjournment Tomorrow.

Montpelier, Dec. 19.—The House bowed to the wishes of the upper branch of the Vermont legislature today relative to adjournment and a special session of the assembly next fall to consider the double taxation question, so that final adjournment of the present session is fixed for tomorrow morning, and there will be no extra session of the legislature next fall unless Gov. Proctor sees fit to call one after receiving the report of the special commission to investigate the taxation problem of the state.

The agreement between the two branches is the result of a conference last night, at which time it was agreed that the House should recede from its demand for adjournment to next fall, and that it should be left optional with the governor to call the legislators together to hear and act upon the report of the taxation commission. This commission, according to act of both branches today, shall be composed of six members—three Republicans and three Democrats—who shall report before June 1, 1908, the report to be printed at the expense of the state and distributed among the taxpayers of the state. Governor Proctor is to fix the salaries and the state is to recognize the bills so contracted. The commission is empowered, in its research, to examine tax inventories on file in town and city clerk's offices.

It is recommended that if the commission reports within a year, the governor use his prerogative and call a special session of the legislature to enact legislation along the lines proposed by the commission. This action is just what Gov. Proctor proposed in his message at the opening of the present assembly. No record of opposition developed in either branch of the assembly over the adoption of the resolution, the House apparently having become satisfied that it was better to leave the matter of an extra session of the legislature in the hands of the executive.

The House this morning killed the proposition to give the members of the judiciary \$3 a day in addition to their salary as members of the legislature. There are 16 members of this committee, all lawyers, and this latter fact raised opposition at once.

The automobile bill went from the House to the Senate this morning and was referred by that body to a general committee from which it was favorably reported this afternoon by a vote of three to one. The bill as it passed the House increases the cost of registration to \$5 for machines under 20 horse power, and 25 cents additional for each horse power above 20. It regulates speed at 10 miles in cities and towns and 25 miles outside. An important amendment made by the House to the bill as reported from committee provides that selection may restrict speed on certain roads, where they are narrow or hilly.

More New Laws.

To regulate the purchase of supplies for state institutions and to repeal section 2 of No. 161 of the acts of 1904. To revive the charter of the Midland Railroad company.

To require non-residents of the state to obtain a license to shoot ruffed grouse, Woodcock, and other game birds. To amend section 18 of No. 115 of the acts of 1904, entitled "An act to regulate the traffic in intoxicating liquors," relating to the number of licenses.

To amend section 12 of No. 191 of the acts of 1898, entitled "An act in amendment of and in addition to the act of incorporation of the village of Essex Junction," approved November 15, 1899, relating to a sewer system.

Relating to appointment to scholarships in case of vacancy in a scholarship.

To revive the corporate existence of the Hartford Water company.

To extend the provisions of section 1 of Senate bill No. 122, entitled, "An act to regulate and equalize the charges by railroad, express, parcel and sleeping car companies for transportation and services," approved December 7, 1906.

To revive the corporate existence of the Walden Creamery company.

To revive the corporate existence of the Norwich Aqueduct company.

To authorize the auditor of accounts to relieve annual license fees to the Phi Chi society of the medical department of the university of Vermont.

To amend section 18 of No. 217 of the acts of 1904, entitled "An act to incorporate the Enosburg Falls Savings Bank & Trust company of Enosburg Falls, Vermont," as amended by No. 207 of the acts of 1905.

To amend sections 97, 101, 102, 107, 116 and 118 and to repeal section 122 of No. 162 of the acts of 1900, entitled "An act to amend the charter of the city of Montpelier."

To provide for the qualifications of persons attending schools in other towns or to grocers for the Christmas box at the home of Mrs. W. T. Campbell, 9 South Main street.

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the acts of 1904, relating to sworn stenographic expense accounts.

To extend the laws relating to the school district in unorganized towns and gores and to incorporate school districts.

Granting relief and a pension to Wm. C. McGinnis.

To provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

An act relating to city and municipal courts and the judges thereof.

To amend section 1 of No. 23 of the acts of 1904, section 1 of No. 24 of the acts of 1898, and sections 597, 607 and 704 of the Vermont statutes, relating to public instruction.

To amend section 4 of No. 203 of the acts of 1898, relating to the Rutland and Montpelier Railroad company.

Joint resolution relating to mileage of certain state officials.

Joint resolution to pay M. H. Alexander the sum therein named.

Joint resolution relating to the pay of the engineering clerk and second assistant librarian.

Joint resolution providing for the payment of mileage and debentures to the widow of A. O. Newton.

Joint resolution relating to per diem and mileage of H. E. Burnham, payable to Mrs. Burnham.

Joint resolution to provide for paying the debentures and mileage of T. J. Brannan of Lowell to his widow.

UNDER THE GLITTER OF THE GILDED DOME.

The cattle will continue to be kept off the State House lawn, as the House yesterday afternoon came down on the proposition to remove the fence about the grounds.

Besides getting his salary as a member of the House, Representative Bailey of Essex draws a similar per diem—three dollars—as chairman of the committee on revision of bills.

The automobile bill was passed over with nineteen amendments before it left the House to go to the Senate. All the amendments were toward relieving the drastic nature of the act.

Governor Proctor has appointed as a commission to examine the normal schools of the state: F. L. Greene of Adams; C. H. Demmes, St. Johnsbury; B. L. Shaffner, Rutland; L. A. Sherwin, Chester; W. N. Cady of Middlebury.

Brattleboro's "water war," which was expected to stir up things, didn't make a ruffle in the House last night, and was passed, with Representative Gibson of that town stating that while he did not believe in certain provisions of the act he believed in the principle. This statement caused some little surprise.

President Proctor of the Senate is the recipient of a splendid gift from his co-workers in the Senate in the shape of a 32d degree Masonic chain of gold and set with fourteen diamonds. The presentation was made by Senator Stafford of Lamotte county. Lieut. Gov. Proctor was justly pleased with the gift as it is a handsome token.

Speaker Cheney of the House was a surprised man yesterday afternoon when Mr. Senter of Montpelier went to him "hammer and tongs" and wound up by presenting him a handsome gold watch and chain. "Tom" was greeted with prolonged applause when he stood up to accept the gift from the House.

He thanked the members heartily for their expression of appreciation. Roger Hubbard immediately afterwards took the opportunity to present a purse of \$50 to the Rev. G. W. Patterson of Randolph, chaplain of the House.

Governor Proctor has appointed J. A. DeBoer of Montpelier, Z. M. Mansur of Newport and J. L. Southwick of Burlington members of the board of trustees of the permanent school fund provided by House bill No. 299.

The board consists of the governor, lieutenant governor, state superintendent of education and state treasurer, ex-officio, in addition to the three mentioned above. The trustees have organized by electing Governor F. D. Proctor chairman; J. A. DeBoer, secretary; J. A. DeBoer, G. H. Proctor and Z. M. Mansur, a committee on finance, the law providing that the secretary shall be one of the members of the committee on finance.

The permanent school fund consists at present of \$1,123,215.20, this sum being the aggregate of the Huntington fund, \$211,131.46; the United States deposit fund, \$669,084.74; and the Vermont war claim fund, \$243,000.

The aim of the commission is to devise means to increase it to at least \$2,000,000.

ATTRACTIONS DISPLAYS OF HOLIDAY GOODS

Offerings to Suit Every Taste and Every Purse—The Time for Buying Is Growing Short.

Many more of the store windows were decked out yesterday with Christmas specialties for the shoppers' inspection. The stores are to be open every evening until Christmas.

At Vesle & Knight's there are very attractive windows containing a variety of choice articles for ladies and children. In one of the windows a miniature room is represented.

Perry & Camp's window is decked out in white, with a raised floor, on which are tastefully displayed all kinds of useful articles for ladies. At one side of the window is represented a young bride dressed in a white gown and veil.

The two large windows at the Union Clothing company's store contain a choice lot of haberdashery, dress suit cases, shoes, etc., all of which are very attractively displayed.

The McWhorter company's store window is very tastefully decorated with a display of all kinds of gents' furnishings of the latest styles and colors.

At R. W. Hooker & Co.'s furniture store there is represented in a very tasteful manner Santa Claus' house and his sleigh, all loaded with presents of nice furniture, ready to start on his journey.

Emalle, the florist, is making a fine showing of holly and holly wreaths for Christmas decorations at the store on Pearl street.

Mr. Richardson at the Art Store on Pearl street is showing a greater stock than ever of useful and fancy goods, suitable for holiday gifts.

In Eastman Brothers' show window is shown a fine line of canned goods, fruit and preserves.

Continued on second page.

BOSTON HAS \$400,000 FIRE

In Center of the Shopping District

FROZEN HYDRANTS DELAY

And Fire Gets Good Start Before Firemen Get Water on It—Old Music Hall Building Partially Destroyed.

Boston, Dec. 19.—A fire broke out at 8 o'clock this morning in the furniture factory of Eldredge & Eldredge, 114 and 116 Tremont street and for a time threatened the whole shopping district. The flames quickly spread until they involved the Orpheum theatre and several adjoining buildings. A general alarm brought the apparatus from as far away as Charlestown. Frozen hydrants delayed the firemen, until all six floors of the factory building were in flames. Several firemen were injured by explosions.

Before the fire was brought under control it gutted the Studio building, where it started, and burned out the rear of the Phillips building and the Music hall building, where the Orpheum theatre is located. The probable loss of life was prevented by the early hour at which the fire started. The damage is estimated at \$400,000.

CAVE—EASTMAN.

Well Known Barre People Married at Montpelier.

Thomas H. Cave, Jr., and Mrs. Kate C. Eastman, both of Barre, were quietly married in Montpelier yesterday at noon by the Rev. W. B. Dukeshire of the Methodist church. They left on the 12:30 train for a short wedding trip to be spent in New York, after which they will return to reside at 29 Wellington street. They will be "at home" after January 1st.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cave are well known in Barre. Mr. Cave being assistant cashier in the National Bank of Barre, and before his employment there he was for a number of years secretary of the Granite Manufacturers' association. They have a host of friends who will wish them well.

Tilton-Dutton.

Rolla B. Tilton and Miss Ina M. Dutton, both of Williamstown, were married at the Baptist parsonage yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Rev. W. A. Kenzie performing the ceremony. Mr. Tilton is a farmer in Williamstown and Mr. and Mrs. Tilton will make their home there.

TALK OF THE TOWN.

Arthur Averill is ill with an attack of the grip.

Samuel Carswell is confined to the house by illness.

Fitz' store will be open every evening until Christmas.

Albert Jenkins went to Concord, N. H., today on a visit.

George Downing of Washington is in the city today on business.

Arthur Bigelow of Brookfield was in the city on business yesterday.

O. C. Taylor of Burlington was in the city on business this morning.

Alex Stewart left today to spend the winter in Portland, Me., and Boston.

The Loyal Temperance Legion will meet Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Woodruff went to Woodstock today to attend a wedding.

Holiday gifts located. Mr. Williams went to Concord, N. H., today on a visit.

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COMPETITION IN TELEPHONE SERVICE

Results in Better Rates and Better Service to Users—New England Cuts Rates Where There is Competition.

Editor Times:—When we read that every Alderman but one in Boston, Mass., voted to give the Metropolitan Telephone Co., a franchise to organize and put in an independent telephone line to compete with the New England, what is the matter of saying something about telephones at home. The New England Telephone Co., have had, as I understand, the privilege of running as many lines and in as many streets and put in as many instruments free as they please. Whenever any other company have asked for a permission they have been on hand at our council meetings to tell them what we should not allow and what would be a damage to the city. They were non-residents and some think had no business to interfere until their rights had been infringed upon, but with a charter from the state and assistance from one of the business men, they have been able to reach this place after a struggle of five years, but not without being blocked, hindered and annoyed by our city officials and others.

They were obliged to pay one dollar for each instrument they put in, their price to the subscriber is \$12 or \$13 against \$18 and \$25 for the present company's rates. The only argument we have ever heard against competition is we do not want so many wires in town, especially antagonistic against the harmless competing Telephone Co. We had with delight competition in railroads, we welcome two lines of electricity, we welcome two companies in every direction with their power driving power attached to them, for the people needed them. Men have been employed for 15 years stringing this city with its telephone wires and never any objection. Doubtless more than \$20,000 is paid for its services every year, most of it going out of the state to one of the shrewdest monopolies of the country. I have heard them say to our council, we come down in price when we have competition to make us, and understand they made similar statements before our legislative committee.

I do not understand why our Street Commissioners are asking the Orange County Telephone Co., to bury their wires on a back street across the river and why asking the Union Telephone Co. to bury their wires on one of our cross streets. Why the aldermen in Ward 5 is out telling men to stop digging telephone pole holes on private land. I never knew him to notify the company that monopolizes this city from doing what they choose.

It is possible that those that represent our interests are so tender of us. The four receipts the competing companies have brought for \$1 each for the four instruments they have put in here should be held as valuable, being conspicuous for both the right of our council to demand it and the principle of it. I understand our merchants are looking this up and hope they will let I think they can afford to let the people surrounding this city think they do not want to be more in touch with the world and this is a year when monopolies and discrimination do not go down in this country.

Personally, I have no interest in any of these lines mentioned except that I pay the New England Telephone Co., at least \$110 a year. It is just what I agreed to, and no fault with the service, but I want to be able to get this as low as they do in St. Johnsbury where competition comes in, and above all, what man who is a man, who sees a light, whose sympathy is not in favor of the small dog, unless he has some interest in the bigger one.

S. D. Allen.

ELMER WILLIAMS DEAD.

Former Driver of Fire Department Dead in Colorado.

Word was received in the city today of the death of Elmer E. Williams at Littleton, Colo., this morning. Mr. Williams went to Colorado a little more than a year ago for the benefit of his health and for a time he was better, but tuberculosis had secured such a hold on him that it finally conquered.

Mr. Williams had been a resident of Barre for many years, and at the time of his departure was driver in the fire department. He was a stone cutter by trade. He was born in Vermont and was about 40 years of age. He is survived by a widow and a brother, Elwyn, here in Barre. The body will be brought to Barre for burial.

RED MEN AND FORESTERS TIE.

Score in Last Evening's Cribbage Games Stood 4 to 4.

The cribbage contest last evening between the Red Men and Foresters of America resulted in a tie, the score being 4 each, the play by tables being as follows:

Wichart and Brew, R. M., defeated Alexander and Clark, F. O. A.; Laxson and Robertson, R. M., defeated Anderson and Cruikshank; F. O. A.; McDonald and Geals, R. M., defeated Ritchie and Birnie, F. O. A.; Webster and Cormack, R. M., defeated Williams and Booth, F. O. A.

Brown and Laviolette, F. O. A., defeated Martin and Duncan, R. M.; Smith and Gibb, F. O. A., defeated Davidson and Brindley, R. M.; Stephen and Marston, F. O. A., defeated McKernon and Walker, R. M.; Schneider and Fitzgerald, F. O. A., defeated Stewart and Birnie, R. M.; Manchester Unity and Elan Gordon are scheduled to play on Thursday evening.

Standing of the teams to date:

	Won	Lost	Per.
C. O. F.	30	18	.625
R. M.	28	20	.583
M. U.	24	24	.500
F. O. A.	20	28	.417
C. G.	17	31	.354